



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Supporting the Development and Retention of a World Class Workforce

Jeffrey S. Swartz, Executive Director

Carl A. Donato Jr., Chair

Business Service Outreach Team Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 17, 2025 via Zoom

ATTENDANCE

		Organization	Trustee Member	16-Jan-25	20-Feb-25	20-Mar-25	17-Apr-25
	Thompson Ryan	Mid Penn Bank, BSOT Chair	X	X		X	X
	Adams, Darrel	Camden County 55+ Program					
	Askie-Rosario, Andrea	CC Commission of the Blind					
	Baer, Jessika	NJ DOL			X		
	Bass, Henry	NJ DOL				X	
	Burden, Lawrence	Hopeworks					
	Michael Butler	The Fountain Fund				X	
	Campbell, Gabriella	NJ DOL		X	X	X	X
	Cirii, Frank	CCOSCC	X	X	X	X	X
	Davis, Gerald	CCOSCC					
	Davis, Taylor	KIPP New Jersey					
	DeFulvio, Michelle	Camden County College					
	Deitz, Jeff	DVRS			X		
	Farrar, Gary	Transportation					
	Field, Nicole	NJDOL					
	Forman, Lois	Jewish Family & Children's Service					
	Fugee, Antoinette	Cooper		X	X	X	X
	Gaskins, Melanie	Camden County College					
	Kaur, Nimit	Camden County Health and Human Services					
	Laguna, Connie	Truist Bank					
	Langhorne, Risce	Hopeworks					
	Lakshminarayan, Pavithra	NJ Dept. of Labor & Workforce Dev.					
	Law, Quinton	Camden Community Partnership					
	Legge, Patty	Volunteer Up					
	Leonetti, Mike	CCOSCC					
	Lex, Jim	Camden County Improvement Authority					
	Lord, Lisa	CCTS		X	X		X
	McCormick, Carol	Camden County College				X	
	Moen, Bill	Camden County College		X	X		
	Page-Soncrant, Jeanne	NJ DOL, Business Rep.		X	X	X	
	Perez, Irene	DVRS		X		X	X
	Quinores, Cris	WAWA					
	Randall, Angela	Community Planning & Advocacy Council (CPAC)					
	Regensburger, Robert	Lockheed Martin	X	X	X	X	X
	Richardson, Ryan	NJDOL					
	Robinson, Terrenny	Net America					
	Scott, Karen (for Angela Randall)	Community Planning & Advocacy Council (CPAC)					
	Serrano, Angel	Hopeworks					
	Shafer, Derena	Camden County College			X		X
	Sinclair, Nidia	Camden County One-Stop				X	
	Spector, David	NJDOL					
	Urkowitz, Ronda	Cross County Connection TMA					
	Walton, Ruth						
	Taylor, Kormasa						
	Weil, Robert	Conner, Strong, and Buckelew	X		X	X	X
	Susan McShane	Npower					X
	Carelina Vieira-Ruiz	NPower					X
	Richelle Hardison	WDB				X	
	Michelle Rohan	WDB			X	X	X
	Swartz, Jeffrey S.	WDB		X	X	X	X
	Vaughn, Debra	WDB		X	X		X



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Quick recap

The committee discussed various initiatives and updates, including a job skills training program for veterans and young adults, an upcoming webinar for justice-impacted entrepreneurs, and the Empower Metro Program. They also addressed funding uncertainties, changes to in-demand occupation lists, and upcoming conferences and job fairs. Additionally, they shared updates on their information sessions, On-the-Job Training programs, as well as discussed hiring opportunities and the upcoming Quarterly meeting.

Next steps

All attendees will consider attending the Justice impacted Entrepreneur Webinar in July.

All attendees to refer eligible young people (ages 16-24) for the Summer Youth Work Experience Program.

Jeff to forward the updated in-demand occupation list to partners once received from the State.

All attendees to consider attending the GSETA Conference in October at Ocean Resort in Atlantic City.

Gabriella to provide updates on the results of the Volunteers of America Information Session.

Gabriella to share details of upcoming Virtual Recruitments with Aramark and ServiceMaster by Alliance once dates are confirmed.

Irene to coordinate the Justice Impacted Job Fair in Mercer County, aiming for 100 employers.

All attendees to spread the word about Camden County Technical Schools' Job Fair on May 7th at the Sicklerville campus.

All attendees consider attending the Targeted Hiring Event for individuals with disabilities and service-connected veterans on September 25th.

Lisa to send job fair flyers to the group for businesses and job seekers.

Antoinette continues promoting the Summer Youth program to high schools.

Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Ryan Thompson opened the meeting at 2:05PM. Ryan asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the March 20, 2025 meeting. A motion was made by Irene Perez and seconded by Frank Cirii. With majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

SUMMARY

Justice Impacted Entrepreneurs Webinar

Ryan discussed the upcoming webinar for justice-impacted entrepreneurs and the interest from organizations like Fountain Fund and Noir 365. She also mentioned the need for preferred dates for the webinar. Irene suggested holding the event in July to avoid conflicts with other events.

Empower Metro Program Overview

Ryan led a discussion on the Empower Metro Program, which is a 26-week hybrid instructor-led program for 18–26-year-olds and military veterans or spouses. The program covers Linux, Net Plus, Azure AI, and Azure Fundamentals, with the last six weeks being self-paced electives. The program is free and offers placement support for employment in cloud computing and networking. The program



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is funded through private foundations, corporate foundations, and a small percentage from government sources. The program is open to those who are legal to work in the US and have a high school diploma or equivalent.

NPower and Summer Youth Work Experience

In the meeting, Jeffrey welcomed Suzanne and Carolyn, who introduced NPower as an option for clients, particularly those with military backgrounds. NPower offers industry-valued and recognized certifications at no cost, funded by private sources. Jeffrey also discussed the Summer Youth Work Experience Program, which aims to fund 100 young people between 16 and 24 in paid internships throughout Camden County. He encouraged the committee to spread the word about the program to potential applicants. Additionally, Jeffrey mentioned the release of RFPs and the upcoming SHRM Conference, where members of the Abilities Committee will give a presentation.

Uncertainty on Funding and in-Demand Occupation Changes

Jeffrey discussed the ongoing uncertainty about their funding, which is expected to be flat funded, a better outcome than a 20% reduction. He mentioned that they cannot award a contract without the money being encumbered. Jeffrey also shared that there will be significant changes to the in-demand occupation lists, effective on July 1, and he will be receiving a PowerPoint with more details. He also mentioned the upcoming GSETA Conference in October and encouraged everyone to visit the GSETA website for more information.

Vocational Rehabilitation Updates and Job Fairs

Ryan and Gabriela discussed the success of their information sessions with Volunteers of America and upcoming recruitments with Aramark and Servants Alliance Service Master. They also shared positive updates on their On-the-Job Training (OJT) programs with Care and Dignity and Step with Purpose. Irene, representing Vocational Rehabilitation, announced upcoming job fairs in Mercer and Monmouth counties, and a targeted hiring event for individuals with disabilities and service-connected veterans. She also mentioned the restructuring of their agency, DVR, under a new director with innovative plans to improve services for both clients and employers.

Job Fair and Hiring Updates

Lisa announced a job fair on May 7th at Camden County Technical Schools, encouraging everyone to spread the word. Jeffrey expressed interest in participating in the event. Antoinette Fugee discussed her work with Darshell Brooks at Winslow High School and the upcoming Bring Your Child to Work Day. Bob Weil from Connor Strong and Buckelew shared they are hiring and encouraged interested individuals to visit their website. The group also discussed the upcoming Quarterly meeting in June at Camden County College.

Adjournment

Ryan asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Irene Perez and seconded by Frank Cirii. By majority vote to the affirmative, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 2:28PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Michelle Rohan, Committee Coordinator